

(*Valeriana officinalis* L.) was wilting slightly. The day was bright and sunny but it had rained heavily in the morning. Closer investigation revealed what I took to be a tortricoid larva feeding on the superficial layers at the base of the stem and the upper part of the rootstock. It had excavated a groove extending about one-third of the way into the plant tissue. There was no apparent silk associated with the feeding and the larva would have become detached if the plant had been pulled up. It ceased feeding a few days later and in due course an imago of *Scoparia ambigualis* emerged on 6.vii.1986. Unfortunately a larval description and details of the cocoon were not recorded. Due to the abundance of this species in a wide range of habitats it probably adopts this mode of feeding on many different species of plant. — K. P. BLAND, 35 Charterhall Road, Edinburgh, EH9 3HS.

DEFENCE REACTION IN THE SMALL TORTOISESHELL — During mid-August 1985, at Barlaston Rough Close Common, I was observing an unidentified species of dragonfly hawking along the banks of a large pond. During the period of observation a number of insect prey were seized, including a wall brown (*Lasiommata megera* L.), which was consumed from a perch on a nearby tree. Shortly afterwards, the dragonfly approached a small tortoiseshell (*Aglais urticae* L.) This butterfly turned and flew directly at the dragonfly, which promptly broke off the "attack". The dragonfly tried twice more to secure the butterfly, meeting the same response each time. J. KORYSZKO, 3 Dudley Place, Meir, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffs.

LARVAL FOODPLANTS OF ALLOPHYTES OXYACANTHAE L. (LEP.: NOCTUIDAE) — In the Highlands of Scotland this species is not uncommon, but the foodplants with which the moth is associated in England are largely absent, these being blackthorn, hawthorn and apple (*Rosaceae*), and for the Highlands G. Harper (*Ent. Rec.* 66:98) notes birch and willow, but without indication of the extent to which these plants are utilised. On June 13th, 1986, I found numerous *oxyacanthae* larvae on rowan (*Rosaceae*) at Aviemore and Nethy Bridge, Inverness-shire and at Grantown and Durnain Bridge, Moray, indicating *Sorbus aucuparia* as a major larval pabulum in the region. — B. K. WEST, 36 Briar Road, Bexley, Kent.

DIORYCTRIA SCHUETZEELLA FUCHS (LEP.: PYRALIDAE) IN SUFFOLK — A single specimen of this moth was taken at light at Monks Eleigh, Suffolk, on 7th August 1986. This species was first recorded in England in 1980 (*Ent. Rec.* 94: 1-3) and as far as I am aware is known only from Orlestone Forest in Kent and Playden in Sussex. — A. WATCHMAN, "Onchan", Black Lane, Monks Eleigh, Suffolk.